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RALEIGH AND WEST RALEIGH

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

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FROM WOOL TO CLOTH

Fig. 1. The wool from two sheep will, on the average, make one large double blanket.

FROM WOOL TO CLOTH

By R. S. CURTIS, Animal Husbandman
Beef Cattle and Sheep Investigations

INTRODUCTION.

Few stock men in this State realize the profit, direct or indirect, which can be obtained from sheep aside from the production of mutton and lamb. In addition to this, there is the manurial value from sheep, their weed destructive properties, and the wool by-product, with which this circular will deal exclusively. The following is the result of taking the wool from fifty sheep* and having it made directly into blankets, robes, and other useful household articles.

Fig. 2. Method of shearing sheep.

After the sheep were sheared in May the wool was shipped to a wool manufacturing concern in this State. The wool was first scoured, and after taking from the total amount the necessary quantity of wool to pay for the cost of making the blankets, the remainder was manufactured into numerous useful articles, their cost and value being explained in the following paragraphs.

*Iredell and Edgecombe Test Farm sheep.

VALUE OF WOOL IF SOLD.

The amount of wool required to make the twenty-five articles and pay for the cost of making consisted of 312 pounds of unwashed wool, valued by the manufacturers of the blankets at 35 cents per pound,

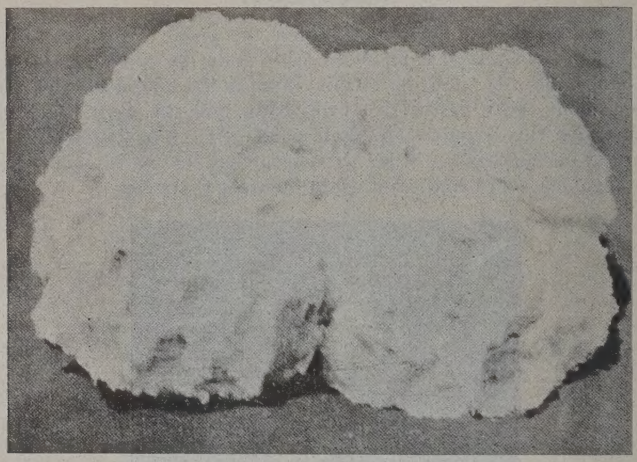

Fig. 3. A properly tied fleece of wool. Use wool or paper twine or tie with wool.

making the total valuation $109.20. This wool, when scoured, lost 35 per cent in weight, leaving 203 pounds of scoured wool suitable for working into the blankets and other articles. The loss was approximately one-third, this being about an average loss for North Carolina wool.

VALUE OF WOOL WHEN MADE INTO BLANKETS.

The following list of articles, designated in number, size, and value, represents the total valuation of these articles, based on wholesale values:

Number	Size	Stock Number	Quarter	Price	Total
3 Pr.	70-80	300	11-4	$5.25	$15.75
1 Pr.	70-80	301	11-4	5.25	5.25
5 Sing.	66-80	3000 D	11-4	4.00	20.00
4 Pr.	48-64	300	Crib Size	3.00	12.00
2 Pr.	60-80	3000	10-4	3.90	7.80
5 Sing.	66-80	801 D	11-4	3.00	15.00
1 Sing.	76-90	1001 D	12-4	7.50	7.50
1 Pr.	70-80	101	11-4	7.50	7.50
1 Pr.	70-80	1273	11-4	7.50	7.50
2 Pr.	68-80	2260	11-4	4.90	9.80
Total 25 blankets					Value $108.10

The wholesale value of these blankets would be $108.10. A reasonable increase in price with the retail merchant would be at least 50 per cent, which would make the value of these blankets $162.15 on this basis. In many instances blankets of the same quality as these would sell for double the wholesale price quoted above.

AMOUNT OF WOOL REQUIRED TO MAKE A BLANKET.

The following table shows the wool requirements and the cost for making blankets of the quality obtained in this instance:

Stock Number	Size	Quarter	Required Washed Wool for Making	Price Per Article for Making
300 Pr.	70-80	11-4	6 to 7 lbs.	$2.50
301 Pr.	70-80	11-4	6 to 7 lbs.	2.50
3000 D Sin.	66-80	11-4	5 to 6 lbs.	2.50
300 Pr.	48-64	Crib Size	4 to 5½ lbs.	1.75
3000 Pr.	60-80	10-4	6 to 6 lbs.	2.50
801 D Sin.	66-80	11-4	5 to 6 lbs.	1.50
1001 D Sin.	76-90	12-4	5 to 7 lbs.	3.00
101 Pr.	70-80	11-4	6 to 7 lbs.	3.00
1273 Pr.	70-80	11-4	6 to 7 lbs.	3.00
2260 Pr.	66-80	11-4	6 to 7 lbs.	2.50

GENERAL WOOL REQUIREMENTS.

The 312 pounds of wool shipped to the manufacturing concern which made these blankets scoured out 203 pounds, thus showing a loss of 35 per cent in weight, this being due to burrs, dirt, chaff, and yolk, a natural oil which exudes from the base of the wool fiber, keeping it oily and pliable. It required 134 pounds of clean or scoured wool to make the twenty-five blankets, the manufacturers retaining 67 pounds of wool, or one-third on a scoured basis, for making the blankets.

It would thus require about 6 pounds of clean wool, or 9 pounds of unwashed wool as it comes from the sheep, to make the average double blanket. In furnishing wool to the manufacturers it should always be remembered that wool from the medium wool breeds will shrink about one-third. Wool from the long or coarse wool breeds is coarser as designated, and will shrink less in scouring. Wool from the fine wool or Merino breeds will shrink from 50 to 75 per cent in scouring, and, while worth more per pound in the scoured condition, it is worth less per pound in the unwashed condition, owing to the excessive shrinkage.

The medium wool breeds of sheep are most prevalent in this State, and the average condition will therefore prevail, the range in shrinkage running from 30 to 40 per cent, with an occasional lot of wool as low as 25 per cent. This is rather unusual, however.

The following cuts show a number of the blanket designs and their value, both wholesale and retail.

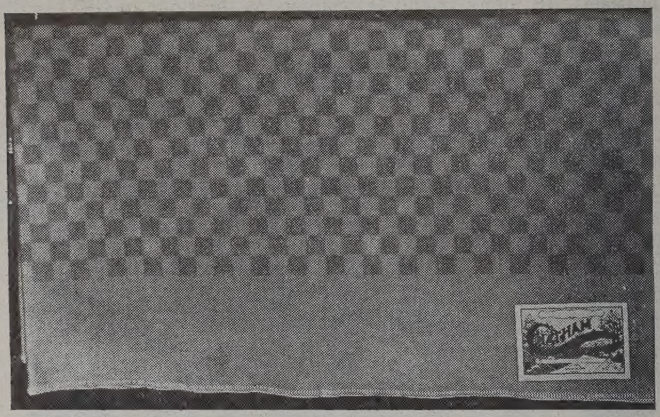

Fig. 4. Single blanket. Wholesale value, $4.00; retail value, $6.00.

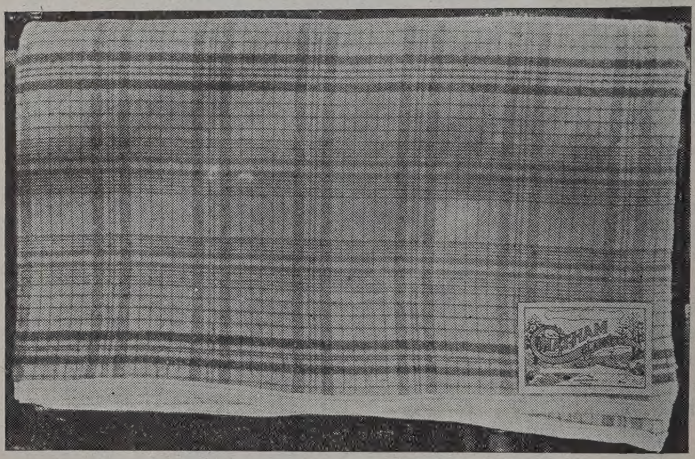

Fig. 5. Double blanket. wholesale value, $3.90; retail value, $5.75.

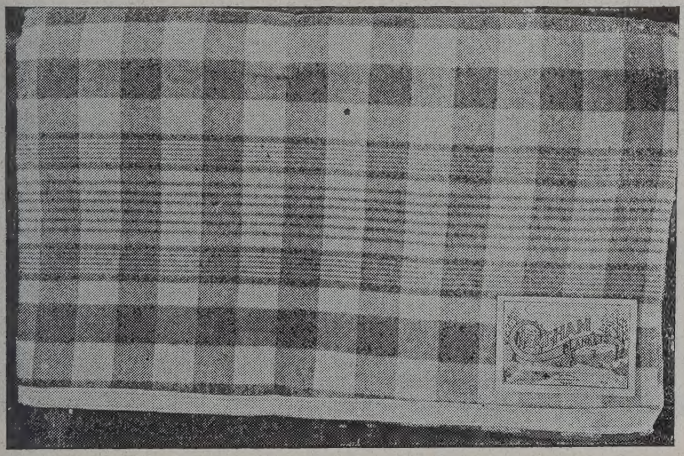

Fig. 6. Double blanket. Wholesale value, $3.90; retail value, $5.75.

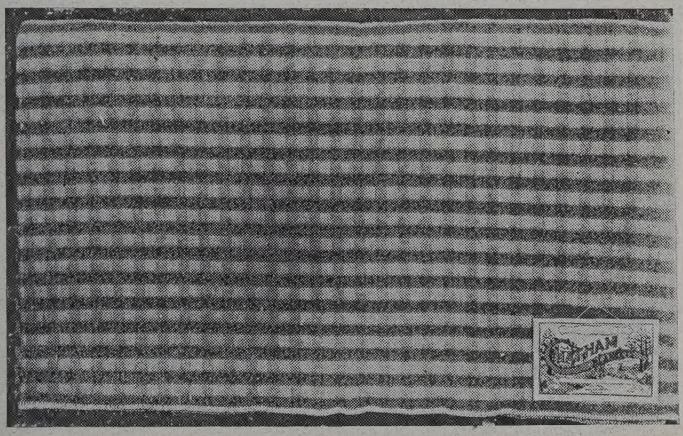

Fig. 7. Single blanket. Wholesale value, $4.00; retail value, $6.00.

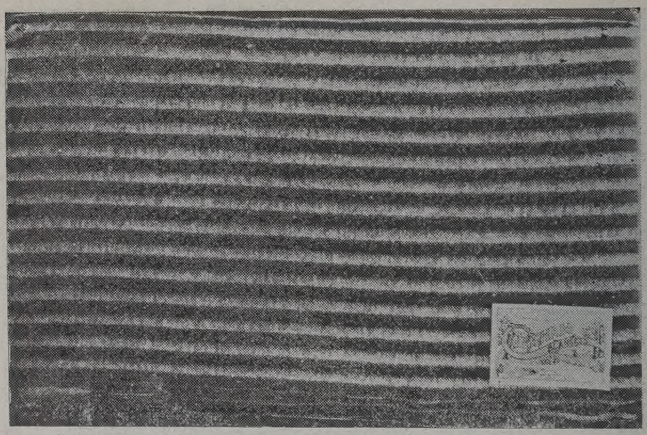

Fig. 8. Lap robe. Wholesale value, $4.00; retail value, $6.00.

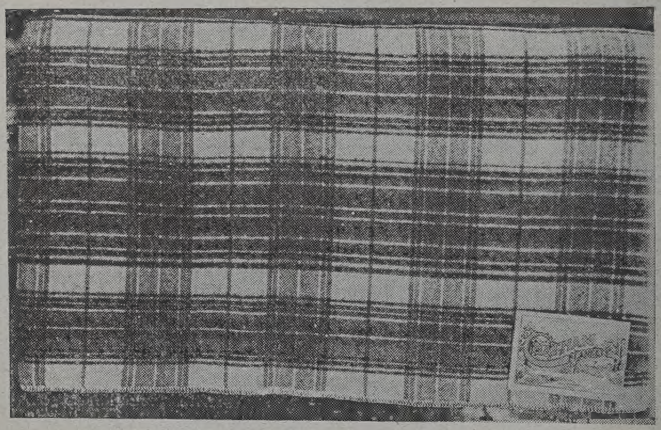

Fig. 9. Double blanket. Wholesale value, $4.90; retail value, $7.50.

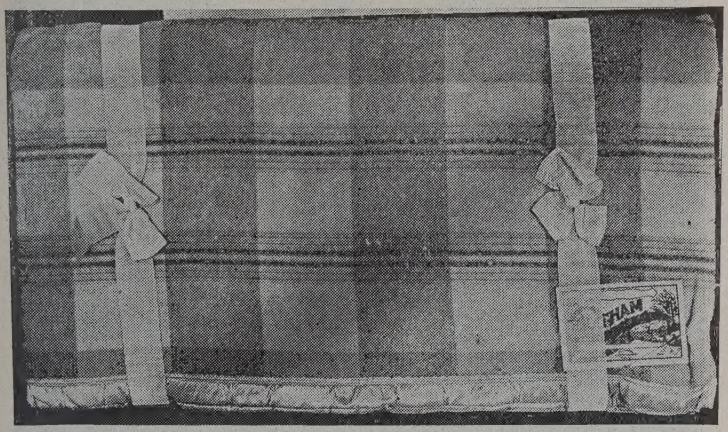

Fig. 10. Double blanket. Wholesale value, $7.50; retail value, $11.25.

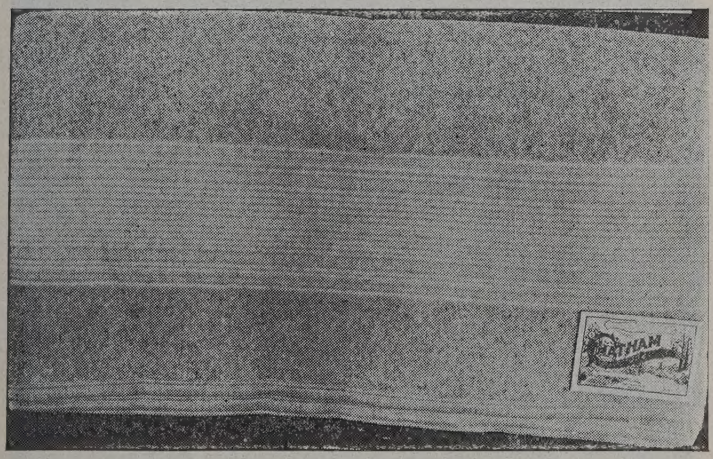

Fig. 11. Double blanket. Wholesale value, $5.25; retail value, $7.75.

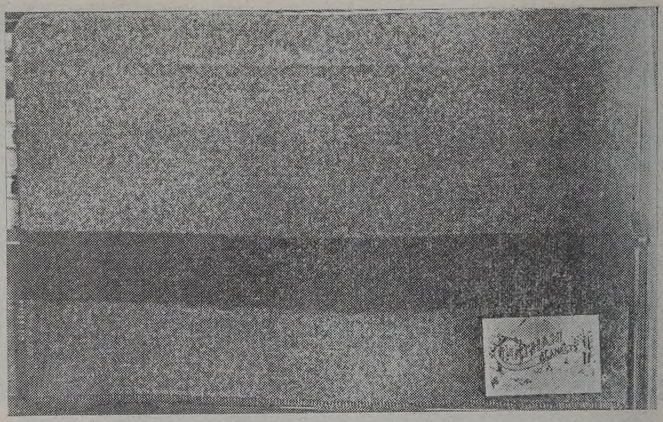

Fig. 12. Lap robe. Wholesale value, $3.00; retail value, $4.50.

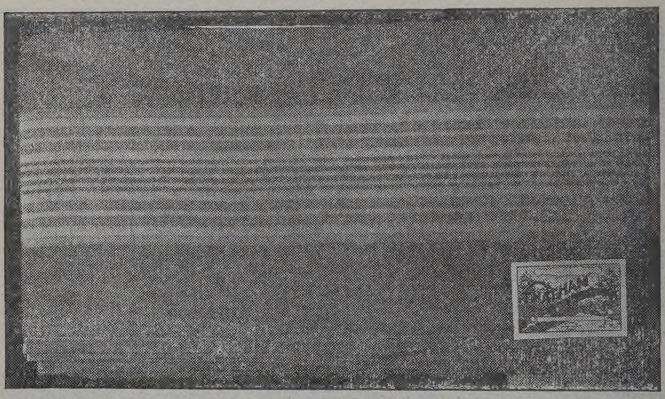

Fig. 13. Double blanket. Wholesale value, $7.50; retail value, $11.25.

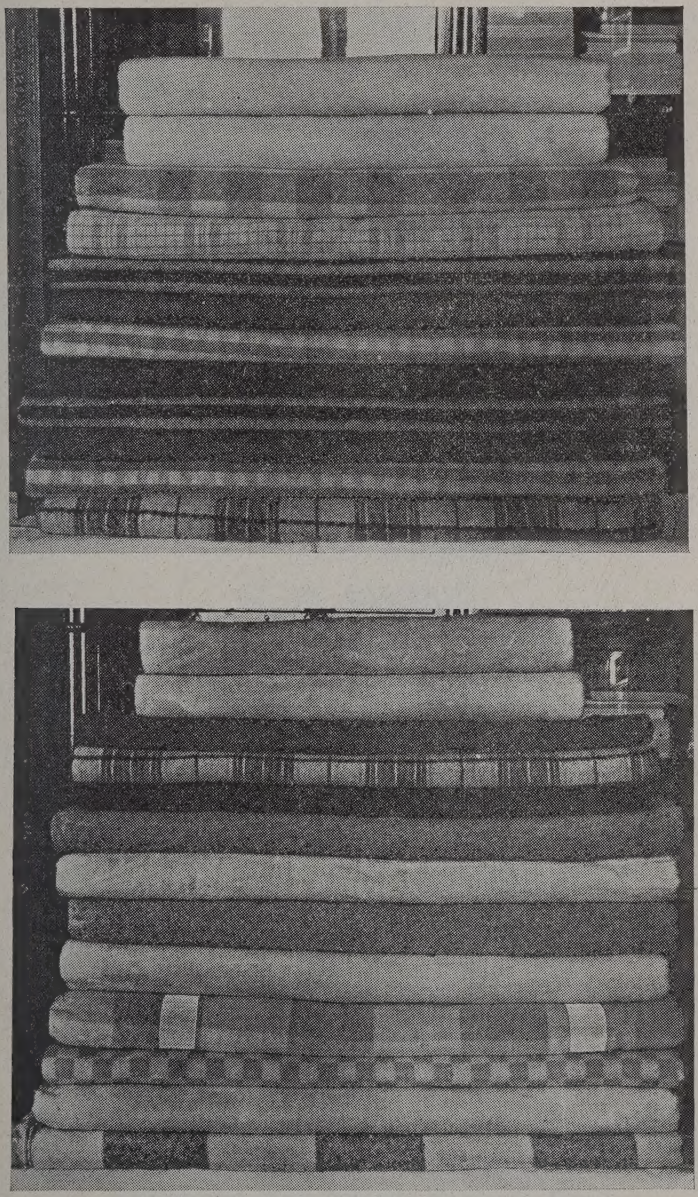

Fig. 14. These two piles of 25 blankets were made from two small flocks of sheep.